



**FOUNDATION**  
**Office in Armenia**

# **Eurasia Foundation**

## **Capacity-Building Experience in Business Education and Social Science Research**

**TheTwelfth Meeting of the OSCE Economic Forum**  
New Challenges for Building Up Institutional and Human  
Capacity for Economic Development and Cooperation  
*Prague, 31 May - 4 June, 2004*



# Eurasia Foundation

## Mission

The Eurasia Foundation promotes the advancement of democratic institutions and private enterprise in twelve countries of NIS. The Eurasia Foundation believes that societies function best when citizens take responsibility for their own civic and economic future. Foundation programs seek to promote the skills and vision necessary to bring the greatest social and economic benefits to individuals and their societies.

## Where We Work

Moscow, Vladivostok, Kyiv, Tashkent, Almaty, Bishkek,  
Tbilisi, Baku, and Yerevan

## Cooperating Funders

USAID

European Governments (Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, Finland, Russia, Ukraine)  
Foundations (Carnegie Corporation of NY, Ford, Ismirlian, MacArthur, Mott, Madariaga)  
International Organizations (World Bank, EBRD, IFC, OSCE)  
Corporations (BP, Hewlett, Citigroup, and others)



# **Eurasia Foundation**

## ■ **Grant Programs**

- ☐ *Private Enterprise Development*
- ☐ *Public Administration and Policy*
- ☐ *Civil Society*

## ■ **Operating Programs in South Caucasus**

- ☐ **Small Business Loan Program (SBLP)**
- ☐ **South Caucasus Cooperation Program (SCCP)**
- ☐ **Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC)**



# ***EF Education Priorities***

---

## ***Overview of capacity building activities in South Caucasus***

- Business Education  
(focus on local content development)
- Entrepreneurial Education  
(credit facilitation, regional SME resource centers – tax, accounting, marketing training, yellow pages, websites)
- Vocational Education  
(needs in engineering and design fields)
- Community Active Schools
- Caucasus Research Resource Centers  
(social science research capacity)



# ***Research Capacity Building***

## **Needs**

- Improve skills set of local researchers
- Increased access to information and data
- Paradigm change – focus on international standards in methodology
- Create intellectual fulcrum – re-energize the professional research community
- Increased dialogue between researchers and policymakers

## **Guiding Principles in Programs**

- Build domestic opportunities to prevent professional outmigration
- Local content creation – research and data on actual transition
- Creating a ‘Public Good’-style resource, not competition
- Strengthen research links to public policy formation
- Serving constituents from NGO, public sector, academia, international
- Trans-border professional networking
- Institutional Sustainability
- Transparency and accountability



# Caucasus Research Resource Centers

## Structure

### Network

*Simultaneous launch of three centers – one each in Baku, Tbilisi and Yerevan – which coordinate on programs, trainings, and information holdings. Anticipate active linkages to international networks in Russia, Ukraine, Central Asia and Central Europe*

*Centers are university-based, but open to users from any academic institution, public sector organization, NGOs, international organizations.*

### Center Facilities and Programs

#### **Reading Rooms**

- ☐ Access to leading journals, working papers, monographs
- ☐ Full time reference librarian

#### **IT Laboratory**

- ☐ Online access to research databases, full-text journals online
- ☐ Training in use of analytical software
- ☐ Repository for open access to other data sets

#### **Methodology Trainings and Lecture Series**

- ☐ Focus on economics, sociology, demography
- ☐ Combination of visiting instructors and local



# Caucasus Research Resource Centers

---

## Structure

### *Center Facilities and Programs (cont'd)*

#### **Data Initiative**

- ☐ Micro-level data on households and current attitudes
- ☐ Identical methodology in all localities
- ☐ Design, sampling and collection carried out by local taskforces
- ☐ Facilitates trans-national research projects
- ☐ Of interest to international colleagues as well as domestic researchers

#### **Research Fellowships**

- ☐ Launch in fall 2004
- ☐ Support original research
- ☐ Portion of fellowships will target trans-boundary research (bilateral or multilateral) using database



## Caucasus Research Resource Centers

### Achievements to Date

- Three fully functional centers opened last summer
- Over 500 individuals trained
- Diverse user profile – NGO, public, academic
- Field work on data initiative ongoing – summer completion
- Working groups coordinate data efforts
- Library collections growing
- Online web-based catalog access – a first in Azerbaijan



## Planned Activities for 2004-05

---

### *Areas for potential cooperation with OSCE*

- Expanded training offerings – in cooperation with member state institutions
- Expand the scope and reach of data initiative to include several regional cities in each country
- Sponsor targeted research projects or support joint research/mentorship projects
- Expand scope of Center's reading room holdings
- Encourage active research-policy dialogue through regular discussion forum
- Targeted workshops/trainings for public sector researchers and/or officials



# Recommendations

---

- Build local capacity – a diversity of voices
- Create ‘local content’
- Promote access to data
- Upgrade methodological “toolkit” for researchers and educators – international standards
- Promote trans-border collaboration and networking among researchers
- Promote research-policy linkages (consumer-producer links) and private sector linkages
- Support ‘intellectual fulcrum’ to help revitalize education and research communities
- Support entrepreneurship in education – trainers and innovators in research and pedagogy